CLAIMS

1. A protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 7 or SEQ ID NO: 10, or a salt thereof.

2. A protein consisting of the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 7 or SEQ ID NO: 10, or a salt thereof.

3. A partial peptide of the protein according to claim 1, or a salt thereof.

4. A polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide encoding the protein according to claim 1, or a partial peptide thereof.

5. The polynucleotide according to claim 4, which is a DNA.

6. The polynucleotide according to claim 5, which contains a base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 8 or SEQ ID NO: 11.

7. A polynucleotide consisting of a base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 8 or SEQ ID NO: 11.

8. A recombinant vector comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 4.

9. A transformant transformed by the recombinant vector according to claim 8.

10. A method of manufacturing the protein according to claim 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof, which comprises culturing the transformant according to claim 9, and producing/accumulating the protein according to claim 1 or its partial peptide.

11. A pharmaceutical comprising the protein according to claim 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

12. A pharmaceutical comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 4.

13. A diagnostic agent comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 4.

14. An antibody to the protein according to claim 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

15. A pharmaceutical comprising the antibody according to claim 14.

16. A diagnostic agent comprising the antibody according to claim 14.

17. A polynucleotide comprising the entire or part of a base sequence complementary or substantially complementary to the polynucleotide according to claim 4.

18. A pharmaceutical comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 17.

19. A method of quantifying the protein according to claim 1, which comprises using the antibody according to claim 14.

20. A method for diagnosis of a disease associated with the protein according to claim 1 or with its function, which comprises using the quantifying method according to claim 19.

21. A method of screening a compound or its salt that inhibits the expression of the protein according to claim 1, which comprises using the protein according to claim 1, the partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

22. A kit for screening a compound or its salt that inhibits the expression of the protein according to claim 1, comprising the protein according to claim 1, the partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

23. A method of screening a compound or its salt that inhibits the expression of a gene for the protein according to claim 1, which comprises using the polynucleotide according to claim 4.

24. A kit for screening a compound or its salt that inhibits the expression of a gene for the protein according to claim 1, comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 4.

25. The pharmaceutical according to claim 11, 12, 15 or 18, which is a prophylactic/therapeutic agent for a cancer.

26. The pharmaceutical according to claim 11, 12, 15 or 18, which is an apoptosis promoter.

27. The diagnostic agent according to claim 13 or 16, which is a diagnostic agent for a cancer.

28. An apoptosis promoter comprising a substance that inhibits the expression of the protein according to claim 1 or a partial peptide thereof, or the expression of a gene for said protein.

29. An apoptosis promoter comprising an antibody to a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

30. A prophylactic/therapeutic agent for a cancer, comprising an antibody to a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

31. A polynucleotide comprising the entire or part of a base sequence complementary or substantially complementary to a base sequence of a

polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or a partial peptide thereof.

32. A pharmaceutical comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 31.

33. The pharmaceutical according to claim 32, which is an apoptosis promoter.

34. A method of screening an apoptosis promoter, which comprises using a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or a partial peptide thereof.

35. A kit for screening an apoptosis promoter, comprising a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or a partial peptide thereof.

36. An apoptosis promoter, comprising a substance that inhibits the expression of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or its partial peptide, or the expression of a gene for said protein.

37. A method of preventing/treating a cancer, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective dose of (i) a substance that inhibits the expression of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 7 or SEQ ID NO: 10, or its partial peptide, or a salt thereof, (ii) a substance that inhibits the expression of a gene for said protein or its partial peptide, or (iii) an antibody to said protein, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

38. A method of promoting apoptosis of cancer cells, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective dose of (i) a substance that inhibits the expression of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 7 or SEQ ID NO: 10, or its partial peptide, or a salt thereof, (ii) a substance that inhibits the expression of a gene for said protein or its partial peptide, or (iii) an antibody to said protein, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.

39. A method of preventing/treating a cancer, which comprises inhibiting the expression of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 4,

SEQ ID NO: 7 or SEQ ID NO: 10, or its partial peptide, or a salt thereof, or inhibiting the expression of a gene for said protein or its partial peptide.

40. A method of promoting apoptosis of cancer cells, which comprises inhibiting the expression of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 7 or SEQ ID NO: 10, or its partial peptide, or a salt thereof, or inhibiting the expression of a gene for said protein or its partial peptide.

41. Use of (i) a substance that inhibits the expression of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 7 or SEQ ID NO: 10, or its partial peptide, or a salt thereof, (ii) a substance that inhibits the expression of a gene for said protein or its partial peptide, or (iii) an antibody to said protein, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof, to manufacture a prophylactic/therapeutic agent for a cancer.

42. Use of (i) a substance that inhibits the expression of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 7 or SEQ ID NO: 10, or its partial peptide, or a salt thereof, (ii) a substance that inhibits the expression of a gene for said protein or its partial peptide, or (iii) an antibody to said protein, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof, to manufacture an apoptosis promoter for cancer cells.